

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## Wylie P.O.L.I.C.E. Club Recognized in Statewide Program

**Wylie, Texas, Dec. 4, 2018** – Wylie Police Officer Michael Stewart and the P.O.L.I.C.E. Club he sponsors have been honored by the Texas School Safety Center as part of its School Safety Spotlight Program.

The program is designed to recognize and promote schools, districts, and/or individuals who foster education and learning through safe and secure campuses. The Wylie group was the winner in the Student/Peer-Led Groups and Programs category, defined as "programs that allow students to take leadership roles in creating and promoting a safe and secure school environment that encourages positive peer interactions."

The P.O.L.I.C.E. Club, whose initials stand for Practice of Leadership, Integrity and Character Education, is dedicated to creating strong student leaders in Wylie and Wylie East high schools. Participants are committed to making a difference, being productive, setting a positive example, and striving to help others while exploring the law enforcement profession. Now in its sixth year, the P.O.L.I.C.E. Club began with only 16 students and now includes 85 participants, who provide support at community-based events including National Night Out, Boo on Ballard, and the Wylie Championship Rodeo, and other activities, such as raising funds to purchase a new Wylie Police K9 officer.

"We're so proud of our P.O.L.I.C.E. Club members and so pleased that their community dedication has been recognized by this statewide organization," Stewart said. "We have been contacted by many law enforcement agencies, some in other states, who have expressed interest in starting similar programs. The outstanding partnership between Wylie ISD and Wylie PD is vital to the club's success."

The program was nominated for this honor by the Wylie ISD Safety and Security Committee. The winners will be featured in an upcoming Texas School Safety Center newsletter and on social media.

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About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population almost 50,000) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 220-percent increase since 2000. MONEY Magazine named Wylie the 20<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in the Country in. Financial website NerdWallet named Wylie the Best Small City for Young Families in August 2016. Realtor.com named Wylie the second hottest suburb in the country in February 2017.